



CITIZEN CORPS STATE UPDATE

March 21, 2003

Statistics on Citizen Corps as of 3/21/2003

State Councils verified and posted: **41 (38 States, 3 territories)**

Local Councils verified and posted: **389**

Local Councils pending verification and posting: **54**

Individuals registered: **over 60,000**

We have seen tremendous growth over the past two months – thank you for your efforts!

1. War on Iraq and the role of Citizen Corps

As the War on Iraq proceeds, the headlines and airways are full of the increased security and emergency preparedness measures underway around the country. As your state focuses on emergency preparations, on an increased presence of law enforcement, and on a possible threat of a bio/chemical attack, please remember to address citizen concerns and to offer opportunities to engage citizens in the heightened security effort. Governors, mayors, emergency managers, and leaders in the first responder community and volunteer organizations can write op-ed pieces Citizen Corps or invite reporters to cover Citizen Corps activities and efforts to engage all Americans in emergency preparedness and citizen participation in security efforts.

Engaging citizens is a important responsibility for Citizen Corps Councils and we ask that you reach out to the local Councils in your state to help emphasize the importance of personal responsibility – making disaster supply kits, making a family communications and evacuation plan, and staying informed – but also to engage volunteers in helping to get the emergency preparedness message out throughout the community and in helping to prepare kits for special needs groups. Volunteers can also be used to help with increase surveillance, preparations in medical facilities, or with exercises for first responders, such as helping with administrative roles or playing victims in various scenarios.

Now is also a good time to introduce the first responder leadership to the community – to personalize the motto of “protect and serve.” As an example, here in DC, Mayor Anthony Williams is hosting a series of neighborhood meetings – the agenda for each meeting is as follows:

- I. Welcome Mayor / Director, Emergency Management Agency
- II. Video - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
- III. Emergency Management Agency Update
 - Review of Family Emergency Preparedness
 - Review of Homeland Security Advisory System
 - Outline Community Emergency Management Planning
- IV. Citizens Corps DC Commission on National and Community Service



V. Panel Discussion

Emergency Management Agency
Metropolitan Police Department
Fire/Emergency Medical Services
Department of Transportation
Department of Health
Department of Mental Health
Citizens Corps
District of Columbia Public Schools
Water and Sewer Authority
American Red Cross, National Capital Area

This is an excellent way to connect with the public to educate them on citizen preparedness, but also to educate them on the services provided by the city and to engage them in volunteer opportunities to support first responders and increased security efforts.

Finally, a fact sheet on Operation Liberty Shield is available on the Citizen Corps homepage, www.citizencorps.gov. Launched by DHS to increase border and transportation security, it also emphasizes citizen preparedness.

2. FY 03 Appropriations

The FY 03 appropriations for Citizen Corps included funding for each of the four federal programs, but did not include funding for Citizen Corps Councils or Council activities, such as public education and outreach on citizen preparedness. The four programs were funded as follows:

FEMA \$20 M for CERT
DOJ \$ 3 M for both Neighborhood Watch and VIPS
HHS \$ 10 M for Medical Reserve Corps

FY 03 CERT Grants: \$18.8 M of the FY 03 CERT funding will be distributed to states in similar fashion to the '02 supplemental grants. Work is underway to expedite this process and additional information will be forthcoming.

FY 03 MRC Grants: Although the timeframe and process for the FY03 MRC grants are still in development, it is expected that \$8 M of the FY 03 MRC funding will be distributed -- with \$2 M expected to further fund the '02 Grantees and \$6 M provided as new grants, again in amounts of approximately \$50,000 per grantee.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG): There was a 40% increase in EMPG funding in the FY 03 appropriations, \$49M, making the total available under EMPG \$165 M. Citizen Corps Council activities are an eligible use of these funds and this should be clearly indicated in the transmittal letter to the States.



If you are not an Emergency Management Director, please be sure to contact your State Director to ask about how Citizen Corps might be included in how your state's portion of this money is allocated.

3. FY 04 Budget

The President's 2004 budget request includes \$3.5 B for the Border and Transportation Security Directorate for the "First Responder initiative." The budget narrative states, "the funding also supports up to \$181 million for the Citizen Corps initiative launched in January 2002. Citizen Corps support local efforts to engage individuals in helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters of all kinds, including terrorist attacks."

The FY 04 hearings are beginning and this means that DHS staff will be conducting Hill visits in the coming weeks. Please be advised that we may need to contact you on short notice for information on Citizen Corps activities within your state in preparation for these visits.

4. 2002 Annual Report Distribution

The 2002 Citizen Corps Annual Report will be hand delivered to the Hill next week. We hope this will generate increased interest in Citizen Corps and we encourage you to contact the state offices of your Senators and the district offices of your Representatives to keep them informed of your continuing activities.

The report will also be mailed to your Governor (with a cc to you), the membership of the National Citizen Corps Council, and our affiliate partners.

5. New Affiliates!!

The U.S. Junior Chamber (Jaycees) became an official Citizen Corps Affiliate during their National Conference in Dallas, TX, on March 8. The Jaycees have over 2000 local chapters and have pledged their support to help get Citizen Corps Councils started and to participate on Councils that have already formed. Please be sure to include the Jaycees in your outreach to the private sector. They are extremely enthusiastic and we are pleased to have their support. The press release is archived on the Citizen Corps website (click on the News and Events box on the homepage) or go directly to http://www.fema.gov/nwz03/nwz03_061.shtm. The Jaycees homepage is www.usjaycees.org.

On March 28, the National Volunteer Fire Council will become a Citizen Corps Affiliate at a signing ceremony held during their Spring Meeting in Salt Lake City. 70% of all firefighters are volunteers and we look forward strong and rewarding partnership. 1-800-FIRE-LINE, which provides information to anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter is now fully functioning in all 50 states. NVFC also have a lot of promotional materials to help to recruit volunteer firefighters in your state. Their homepage is www.nvfc.org.



6. National Citizen Corps Conference

We will be working on the agenda for our second National Citizen Corps Conference over the coming weeks. If you have a particular request, please be sure to send in agenda items or suggestions for guest speakers who you think would be particularly informative. And please remember to **save the week of JULY 28 – AUGUST 1, 2003**. This conference will be in the DC area and we will keep you informed as soon as we have details.

7. Website Improvements

The web teams continue to work on improving the Citizen Corps website. We are very, very close to having a password process to provide access to each state POC to review the local council registration page – which will allow a more direct process for local council verification – and to send emails to the individuals who have registered from your state. We will be testing this capability next week and expect to make this available to you all by April 1.

8. Local Council Verification Form

Texas has an additional POC working on Citizen Corps who has developed a local council verification sheet for the state. Although you may have a process already in place, we have attached it here for your consideration.



verification form.doc

9. New Handouts!!

Attached is a new one-page handout that outlines the Citizen Corps website to help people find particular items more easily. Also attached is a revised one-page handout on Neighborhood Watch.



"cc_website
handout_3-20-03.pdf"



"USAonwatch
summary.doc"

10. Updated Citizen Corps Power Point

Attached is the updated Citizen Corps overview presentation. Please feel free to edit this as appropriate for your audience and the length of time you have for your presentation. And just a reminder, there are notes included for most of the slides to provide additional background information for whomever may be giving the presentation.

- Due to the size of the file, the PowerPoint presentation has been sent in a separate email.

11. Updated Citizen Corps Council Map

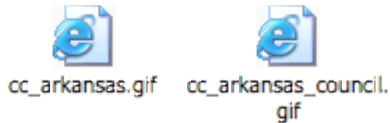


Attached are files of the updated Citizen Corps Council map and corresponding database, as of March 14, 2003. The map on the Citizen Corps website will soon be updated automatically, meaning a new city “dot” or county “area shading” will be posted on the map as soon as the related Council is verified. There will also be a “printer friendly” function for the Council map.

- Due to the size of the file, the Citizen Corps map and database have been sent under a separate email.

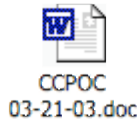
11. Logos with State/Territory Names

Now that we have purchased the Citizen Corps font, we have developed State/Territory Citizen Corps logos – one with just the state/territory name and one with the state/territory name and the word “Council” added. Attached is a sample of each version using Arkansas. We will be emailing to you an eps and a gif file for each of these designed especially for your state/territory!



12. POC list

The updated FEMA Region and State Citizen Corps Point of Contact list is attached.



Lastly, if you have noteworthy information about ongoing Citizen Corps activities in your state or territory, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!! Please forward any relevant information to your FEMA regional Citizen Corps point of contact.

THANK YOU ALL!!